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Committee Secretary

Senate Standing Committees on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

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Submission to the Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment (Small Business-Penalty Rates Exemption) Bill 2012

I am a permanent employee, working as a Scene Of Crime Officer, currently earning around 43.65 per hour.

I have a personal loan which I am paying off and trying to save for a home loan.

If penalty rates were abolished... my fortnightly pay would be decreased by an average $400 per fortnight as I work 2 full weekends every 6 week cycle of my roster, however, when we are short staffed this can increase to 4 or 5 weekends in a 6 week cycle.

My weekends are important to me because... my partner works in the Army and when he is in Australia he works a 7am to 4pm shift during the week and on the weekend we can't spend time together or go anywhere because I work weekends. We are looking at starting a family in the future and it really concerns me that if my penalty rates were to

be abolished then we wouldn't be able to afford to keep up a mortgage and pay for child care and we still wouldn't be able to spend time as a family. I have missed out on weddings, holidays, nights out with the girls and family events because I have to work on the weekend while everyone else is free to enjoy their time together.

I urge the committee to keep penalty rates. Without them I think i would have to look for a job in the private sector and not have to work weekends, but I sincerely love my job and want to be able to stay in it serving my community and helping victims of crime.

Submitted by
Lucy Coll
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